

in the best and most businesslike way; every member's interests will be watched and guarded without fail.

The question of the attitude of the State Society in the matter of proposed medical legislation was brought up and discussed, and a special meeting of the Council to consider this question was ordered called for Saturday, October 10, 1914, at 8 p. m., in the library of the San Francisco County Medical Society, at which meeting anyone interested in the subject is requested to appear and be heard.

The Secretary reported a steady growth in the business of the JOURNAL and the membership of the Society, which on that date amounted to 2456, the largest membership on record.

OUR REAL WORK.

Doubtless many of our members have an idea that publishing the JOURNAL once a month, collecting the accounts and keeping track of our membership is about all the work that the office of the State Society does. This is very, very far from the case and at the request of the President, a brief statement of some of the seldom-heard-of activities of the office are given. In the first place, our confidential records are almost invaluable; probably twenty-five thousand dollars would not suffice to secure the information on file. We have endeavored to find out something about every licensed physician and every quack in the state and no information is too big or too insignificant to be recorded. In many instances it has been only through our office that identity has been established, fraud uncovered or injustice corrected. That work in itself is very extensive and laborious and, of necessity, is of the most confidential nature; it is our aim to see that information shall be properly used and not made a weapon. Most of the employers of medical services fill vacancies through our office or come to it for information and we have furnished hundreds of physicians with locations, positions on salaries, and the like; this same sort of work applies too to nurses, office attendants, etc., and is very extensive; no charge is ever made for this work. The exchange, purchase and sale of locations is also a factor of considerable importance and we always have a number of such things on record in the office. The one object of the Secretary has been to make the office of the Medical Society of the State of California the one absolutely necessary clearing house or headquarters for all things medical; to make it the one place where accurate information in regard to medical affairs in California can be obtained, and to be of the greatest possible help to physicians in every conceivable way. For years it has been a rigid rule that no request for information shall be turned down; the address of the publisher of a medical journal, the title of a book; where to get a certain thing or where to find out certain information; no letter is ever unanswered and the desired information is secured or the enquirer told where he can get what he wants to know. As a matter of fact, the publication of the JOURNAL is one of the smallest pieces of work that goes on in the office of the Society.

A GOOD NUMBER.

What did you think of that Tuberculosis Number of the JOURNAL? A good many people thought it a pretty fine number and we thought so too. Several letters of commendation have been received about it and the State Board of Health took official recognition of it and of some of the editorial suggestions made in that issue. With the co-operation of our members and our advertisers, and their interests should be common, we expect to bring out a number of special issues, from time to time, and make them as notable as possible. You may have noticed, too, that the JOURNAL very frequently has eight or sixteen additional reading pages and that the number of illustrations is increasing as well as the quality of the articles published. There is room for lots of improvement, if you will help a little; an occasional two-cent stamp and five minutes of your time will not hurt either your purse or your work or your dignity—and it will help us a whole lot. Wilt?

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

Examinations will be held in various parts of the country on October 19th for admission to the Public Health Service, and full information will be found on another page. Positions in the Service are desirable and permanent ones and this branch of the government medical activity should become increasingly attractive to young physicians as the Public Health Service grows in numbers and importance.

BUBONIC PLAGUE IN NEW ORLEANS.

As most of us know, what had been looked for for a long time happened in July and bubonic plague made its appearance in New Orleans in that month. Immediately the Public Health Service was requested to take charge of the situation and the old friends of San Francisco, Dr. Rupert Blue, now Surgeon-General of the Service, and his assistant, Dr. W. C. Rucker, went to work in New Orleans with the same energy and with the knowledge gained from their work with plague in San Francisco. Up to the end of August, there had been noted 23 cases of human plague and 82 cases of rat plague; others have occurred since that date. We may, however, have no anxiety as to the outcome as the Public Health Service has the situation well in hand and the destruction of rats is enormous.

NEW DODGE IN FAKERY.

Some of our wily friends (?) the advertising fakers have hit upon a new and clever dodge for fooling the unwary person with a few dollars who comes into their clutches. They get the price lists of some respectable drug houses and have sheets printed in the same general style as the sheets of the price list, which they insert in the book. These fake sheets give the enormous prices of their fake stuff, as for instance "cat serum," "lost manhood animal extracts," and the like. The Board of Medical Examiners is after them energetically.